



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913  
PH (517) 373.3447 | FAX (517) 373.5849  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/birkholz/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/birkholz/)

For Immediate Release  
June 8, 2004

Contact: Amanda Price  
517-373-3447

## **Birkholz congratulates agreement on radio tower sharing**

**LANSING** – Sen. Patty Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township, today congratulated Allegan County, the state Department of Information Technology, the Michigan State Police and the Michigan Public Safety Communications System for reaching an agreement that will allow Allegan County 911 service providers to be the first county to place their transmitters on state police radio towers.

“I’m extremely happy that we were able to come to an agreement for Allegan County regarding co-location on towers,” Birkholz said. “It’s very important to our local communities and in the public’s interest that we share these towers to keep costs down and preserve more land from being disturbed. Also, in light of increased terrorism reports, it’s especially important that our local emergency responders and state police work together.”

Staff from the DIT, MPSCS, state police and Allegan County met last week to work out the agreement. It allows local units of government’s emergency response communications services to be located on state police radio towers.

Senate Bill 293, passed in June 2003, would have mandated that local governments be allowed to put their emergency systems on state police towers. The governor vetoed the legislation.

“It’s taken far too long to get this approved and taken care of,” Birkholz said. “Our local governments have waited more than a year for this action, which is too long in matters of public safety. It’s unfortunate that politics got in the way of the safety of our citizens. I’m pleased we were able to resolve the issue to benefit our citizens.”

###